

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-05 INR-07 CIAE-00  
NSC-05 TRSE-00 /045 W  
-----125996 120804Z /12

P 111517Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 524  
SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 482

E. O. 11652: XGDS-2

TAGS:

SUBJ: MEETING BETWEEN DR PERRY AND MINISTER WEIZMAN (U)

1. DR PERRY MET WITH MINISTER OF DEFENSE WEIZMAN FROM 1900-2000 ON MONDAY, 9 JAN. US PARTICIPANTS ATTENDING THE MEETING WERE AMBASSADOR LEWIS, DR PERRY'S PARTY, COLONEL BISSELL AND COLONEL WILLIAMS. MINISTER WEIZMAN'S GROUP CONSISTED OF THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE, DIRECTOR GENERAL ZUSSMAN, THE CHIEF OF DEFENSE R&D, AND THE IDF ESCORT OFFICER.

2. MINISTER WEIZMAN OPENED THE MEETING BY WELCOMING DR PERRY TO ISRAEL AND IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED INTO A SHORT DISCUSSION OF HIS CURRENT ACTIVITIES AS REGARDS THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO LEAVE (WEDNESDAY MORNING) FOR CAIRO WHERE HE HOPED FOR SUCCESS AND SAID THAT HE ANTICIPATED "REACHING AN AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT, OR AT LEAST I BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A 50-50 CHANCE THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT CAN BE NEGOTIATED." HE THEN EMPHASIZED THAT DESPITE ANY AGREEMENT THAT MIGHT BE REACHED WITH EGYPT THERE WILL STILL REMAIN A GREAT DEAL OF DEEP ROOTED ANIMOSITY IN THE REGION, AND THAT

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ANY PEACE THAT CAME WOULD HAVE TO BE A "HIGHLY ARMED PEACE." HE REVIEWED THE MILITARY STRENGTH AND DISPOSITIONS OF SYRIA AND IRAQ, POINTING OUT THAT THE THREAT IN THIS AREA WOULD CONTINUE. FOR EMPHASIS, HE POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH PEACE EXISTS BETWEEN THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES THERE IS STILL A REQUIREMENT FOR LARGE MILITARY FORCES AND THAT THIS

SAME SITUATION COULD BE EXPECTED TO EXIST FOR SOME TIME IN THE MIDDLE EAST AS WELL. THUS, ISRAEL WOULD HAVE TO HAVE STRONG MILITARY FORCES FOR THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. HE TOUCHED SLIGHTLY UPON THE FACT THAT HE WAS MAKING THE PEACE WITH SADAT WHO COULD BE A TRANSITORY FIGURE. HOWEVER, HE QUICKLY QUALIFIED HIS REMARKS BY SAYING THAT EVEN WITHOUT SADAT HE FEELS THAT ANY AGREEMENT REACHED WITH EGYPT WILL BE "SUBSTANTIAL, NOT FLIMSY." HE ALSO COMMENTED ON THE "FRIENDSHIP AND RESPECT" HE HAS DEVELOPED WITH AND FOR MINISTER GAMASY.

3. WEIZMAN THEN MADE A FEW COMMENTS ABOUT HIS HISTORY AS THE AIR FORCE COMMANDER AND STATED THAT IT WAS HIS OPINION THAT ONE OF THE BIG QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE QUALITY VERSUS QUANTITY CONCEPT IS "WHAT IS QUALITY?" HIS QUESTION FOCUSED ON HIS CONCERN OVER WHAT THE CONVENTIONAL FORCES WILL BE LIKE TEN YEARS FROM NOW AND AT THE END OF THE CENTURY. HE NOTED THAT THIS WOULD BE A PRIMARY DISCUSSION TOPIC WHEN HE MEETS SECRETARY BROWN AND THE SERVICE CHIEFS OF STAFF. HE CLOSED THIS PORTION OF THE DISCUSSION BY SAYING THAT ISRAEL COULD NEVER HAVE REACHED THE SECURITY POSTURE WHICH SHE NOW ENJOYS WITHOUT THE GREAT HELP OF THE UNITED STATES AND THAT THIS IS REALIZED BY ALL. HE THEN REEMPHASIZED THAT DEFENSE IS AN EXPENSIVE BUSINESS AND HIS PROBLEM IN GETTING  
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READY FOR HIS VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES IS TO FIGURE OUT "HOW TO GET THE HELP THAT ISRAEL NEEDS IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE AND DOWN THE ROAD AND STILL BE ABLE TO SAY THAT ISRAEL AND THE UNITED STATES ARE FRIENDS."

4. THE AMBASSADOR THEN REQUESTED THAT DR PERRY GIVE HIS THOUGHTS CONCERNING HOW THE UNITED STATES COULD HELP ISRAEL, PARTICULARLY IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY. DR PERRY FOCUSED ON WHAT HE TERMS "FORCE MULTIPLIERS"; I.E., THAT TECHNOLOGY AND THOSE SYSTEMS WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE ISRAELI FORCE TO IMPROVE QUALITY WITHOUT NECESSARILY INCREASING THE SIZE OF FORCES, PERHAPS EVEN ALLOWING FOR DECREASING THE SIZE OF FORCES. HE MENTIONED THE FOLLOWING SYSTEMS AS BEING THE TYPE SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGIES WHICH HE FEELS THE UNITED STATES MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE TO ISRAEL AS FORCE MULTIPLIERS:

A. PRECISION GUIDED WEAPONS.

B. NIGHT VISION DEVICES, PARTICULARLY FLIR (THERMAL

DEVICES) FOR TANKS AND OTHER SYSTEMS.

C. LASER RANGE FINDERS FOR TANKS.

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-----126275 120804Z /11

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 525

SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

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5. DR PERRY THEN EMPHASIZED THE GREAT EXPENSE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. HE POINTED OUT THAT FOR THE F-18 ALONE IN THIS NEXT FISCAL YEAR THE R&D BUDGET WILL BE 500 MILLION DOLLARS AND THAT THIS TYPE OF EXPENDITURE MAY BE EXPECTED FOR THE OUT YEARS. HE THUS FEELS THAT THE MOST BENEFICIAL CONTRIBUTION WHICH ISRAEL CAN MAKE TO BOTH HERSELF, HER AIRCRAFT INDUSTRY AND THE UNITED STATES MAY LAY IN THE COOPERATIVE AREAS OF R&D AS OPPOSED TO BUILDING AN ADVANCED FIGHTER AIRCRAFT. AS AN EXAMPLE, HE BROUGHT UP THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIR-TO-AIR MISSILES. MINISTER WEIZMAN INDICATED THAT THE MOST ADVANCED ISRAELI AIR-TO-AIR MISSILE WOULD BE REVEALED TO DR PERRY DURING HIS VISIT TO ISRAEL AND CONCURRED THAT THERE WOULD BE MUTUAL BENEFIT IN SUCH COOPERATION. HOWEVER, HE CONTINUED TO MUSE ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT ISRAEL MIGHT SOMEDAY BUILD AN ADVANCED FIGHTER.

6. DR PERRY THEN FOCUSED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF A PEACE AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT AND WHAT THIS WOULD MEAN IN THE WAY OF SYSTEMS REQUIREMENTS FOR ISRAEL. HE SAW A GREAT NEED FOR TACTICAL INTELLIGENCE MEANS AND FELT THAT TECHNOLOGIES IN THAT PARTICULAR AREA COULD  
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BE MADE AVAILABLE TO ISRAEL. HE THEN WENT ON TO POINT OUT THE GREAT ADVANTAGE ISRAEL HAS DUE TO HER DEVELOPMENT OF QUICK REACTION CAPABILITIES FOR SYSTEMS UPGRADE AND DEVELOPMENT AND HOW THIS APPLIES IN FIELDS SUCH AS ELECTRONIC WARFARE, ANOTHER AREA OF POSSIBLE TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGE. HE THEN CONTINUED LISTING SOME TYPES OF SYSTEMS AND TECHNOLOGY WHERE HE FELT THAT COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT MIGHT TAKE PLACE; IMPROVED CONVENTIONAL MUNITIONS (CLUSTER BOMBS), TERMINAL GUIDANCE FOR SUCH MUNITIONS AND LASER DESIGNATORS.

7. MINISTER WEIZMAN, ACKNOWLEDGING THAT THE AMBASSADOR AND SECRETARY VANCE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD HIM THAT U S FINANCIAL SUPPORT (DOLLARS) FOR USE IN IN-COUNTRY PRODUCTION OF THE KFIR AIRCRAFT AND OF THE MERKAVA TANK WAS A NON-STARTER, STATED THAT HE WAS AGAIN GOING TO RAISE IT IN WASHINGTON. HIS PHILOSOPHY IS THAT HE WILL BE FACED IN THE NEXT FEW YEARS WITH THE MODERNIZATION OF HIS AIR FORCE. ONLY A CERTAIN NUMBER OF F-15'S (HE SAID 50) AND F-16'S (THE FIGURE USED WAS 150) COULD BE INTEGRATED INTO THE ISRAELI AIR FORCE. THIS IS A TOTAL OF 200 AIRCRAFT, YET HE HAS A REQUIREMENT FOR 700 AIRCRAFT WHICH HE IS WILLING TO ROUND OFF TO PERHAPS 500-600. THE GAP IS ONE CURRENTLY FILLED BY THE A-4 SKYHAWK IN ITS GROUND ATTACK ROLE. THIS A-4 SKYHAWK IS GETTING OLD AND WILL HAVE TO BE PHASED OUT OF THE SYSTEM. WEIZMAN BELIEVES THAT THE MOST APPROPRIATE REPLACEMENT IS THE KFIR WHICH HE SAID FILLS THE GAP. HE CONTENTS THAT THIS IS A VERY INEXPENSIVE AIRPLANE NOW COSTING BETWEEN 4.2 AND 5 MILLION DOLLARS A COPY AND EVEN WITH PRICE GROWTH OVER THE NEXT FEW YEARS WILL CONTINUE

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TO BE A RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE FIGHTER/ATTACK AIRCRAFT. HE WANTS A PROGRAM SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE FISCAL SUPPORT GRANTED FOR THE MERKAVA TANK. (107 MILLION DOLLARS FOR IN-COUNTRY PRODUCTION WITH A CERTAIN AMOUNT BEING SPENT IN THE UNITED STATES FOR RAW MATERIALS). HE WANTS TO BUILD ABOUT 24 KFIR'S A YEAR IN A FIVE YEAR PROGRAM AS REPLACEMENTS FOR THE A-4 AND HE WOULD LIKE U S DOLLAR SUPPORT FOR THIS PROGRAM. HE SAID THAT THE PRECEDENT HAD ALREADY BEEN ESTABLISHED BY THE MERKAVA GRANT. THIS

THE AMBASSADOR WAS QUICK TO CORRECT, STATING THAT IT HAD NOT ESTABLISHED A PRECEDENT. WEIZMAN SAID, "WELL, LET'S CALL IT AN EXAMPLE THEN." HE SAID THAT HE NEEDS THIS TYPE OF SUPPORT FOR BOTH THE KFIR PRODUCTION AND THE TANK PRODUCTION IN ORDER TO BOTH FILL THE GAP BY REPLACING OBSOLESCEMENT SYSTEMS AND TO KEEP HIS LOCAL AIRCRAFT AND TANK INDUSTRIES GOING.

8. THROUGHOUT THE MEETING WEIZMAN WAS OBVIOUSLY PREOCCUPIED WITH HIS FORTHCOMING TRIP TO CAIRO AND DID NOT BRING UP ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS OTHER THAN THOSE INDICATED ABOVE. LEWIS

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## Message Attributes

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